

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for providing data reference information, comprising:
 copying data from a first computer application to a memory;
 copying reference information related to the data to the memory;
 pasting the data from the memory to a second computer application; and
 pasting the reference information related to the data from the memory to the second
10 computer application so that the reference information related to the data can be reviewed along
 with the data.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising appending one or more descriptive
 labels to the reference information related to the data when it is pasted to the second computer
15 application.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein appending comprises appending one or more
 descriptive labels related to at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was copied,
 the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, the time the data was pasted, the
20 identity of the user who copied the data, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author
 of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited,
 the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in a document, or the title of the
 document from which the data was copied.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the reference information related to the data.

5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein copying the reference information related to the data comprises copying from the first computer application to the memory at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the identity of the user who copied the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the
10 data in a document, or the title of the document from which the data was copied.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein copying the reference information related to the data comprises copying from the first computer application to the memory meta-data related to the data.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein copying the reference information related to the data comprises copying from the first computer application to the memory properties related to the data.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein pasting the reference information related to the data comprises pasting from the memory to the second computer application at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was pasted, the time the data was pasted, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data,
5 the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in a document, or the title of the document from which the data was copied.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein pasting the reference information related to the data comprises pasting from the memory to the second computer application meta-data related to
10 the data.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein pasting the reference information related to the data comprises pasting from the memory to the second computer application properties related to the data.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein pasting the reference information related to the data comprises pasting the reference information adjacent to the data in a document of the second computer application.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

copying additional reference information related to the data from a third computer application to the memory; and

pasting the additional reference information from the memory to the second computer

5 application so that the additional reference information can be reviewed along with the reference information related to the data.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein copying additional reference information

comprises copying from the third computer application to the memory at least one of the date the

10 data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the data was pasted.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein pasting the additional reference information

comprises pasting from the memory to the second computer application at least one of the date

15 the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the data was pasted.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising adding to the reference information

related to the data, which was pasted to the second computer application, additional reference

20 information related to the data and obtained from the second computer application.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein adding to the reference information comprises adding to the reference information related to the data at least one of the identity of the user who pasted the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the data was pasted.

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17. The method of claim 1, wherein the first computer application and the second computer application comprise one computer application and the data is included within at least one document of the computer application.

18. A computer system for providing data reference information, comprising:

a processing unit;

a memory in communication with the processing unit;

a computer application in communication with the processing unit and the memory that

5 provides instructions to the processing unit, wherein the processing unit is responsive to the instructions, operable for:

copying data from a first document to the memory;

copying reference information related to the data to the memory;

pasting the data from the memory to a second document; and

10 pasting the reference information related to the data from the memory to the second document so that the reference information related to the data can be reviewed along with the data.

19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the

15 instructions, is further operable for appending at least one descriptive label to the reference information related to the data when it is pasted to the second document.

20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for appending at least one descriptive label to the reference information related to the data by appending at least one descriptive label related to at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was
5 pasted, the time the data was pasted, the identity of the user who copied the data, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in a document, or the title of the document from which the data was copied.

10 21. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for generating the reference information related to the data.

22. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for copying reference information related to the data by copying from
15 the first document to the memory at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the identity of the user who copied the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in the first document, or the title of the compilation from which the data was copied.

23. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for pasting the reference information related to the data by pasting from the memory to the second document at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was pasted, the time the data was pasted, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in the first document, or the title of the compilation from which the data was copied.

24. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for:

copying additional reference information related to the data from a third document to the memory; and

pasting the additional reference information from the memory to the second document so that the additional reference information can be reviewed along with the reference information related to the data.

25. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for copying additional reference information by copying from the third document to the memory at least one of the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the data was pasted.

26. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for pasting the additional reference information by pasting from the memory to the second document at least one of the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the data was pasted.

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27. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for adding to the reference information related to the data, which was pasted to the second document, additional reference information related to the data and obtained from the second document.

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28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for adding to the reference information by adding to the reference information related to the data at least one of the identity of the user who pasted the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the date the data was pasted, or the time the

15 data was pasted.

29. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing data reference information, comprising:

logic for pasting data from a memory to a computer application in a format that can be edited or modified; and

5 logic for pasting the reference information related to the data from the memory to the computer application so that the reference information related to the data is displayed with the data.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising:

10 logic for determining if preferred reference information related to the data is available, wherein the details of the preferred reference information are based on a user setting or a predetermined configuration; and

logic for pasting the preferred reference information to the computer application if it is determined to be available and for pasting the data to the computer application without the
15 reference information if the preferred reference information is determined not to be available.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the logic for determining comprises:

logic for parsing the reference information contained in the memory;

logic for selecting the reference information that is in a preferred presentation format as a

5 stream of reference data elements;

logic for configuring the stream of reference information into segments of various types of reference data; and

logic for selecting the preferred types of reference data from the segments of reference data to obtain the preferred reference data.

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32. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the logic for pasting the reference information comprises logic for pasting the data reference information based on the selections indicated by a user setting or a predetermined configuration.

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33. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the logic for pasting the reference information comprises logic for pasting the data reference information if the data comprises one or more characteristics based on a user setting or a predetermined configuration.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the logic for pasting the
20 reference information comprises logic for pasting the data reference information if the data comprises the characteristic of at least one of a predetermined size, amount, or type of data that is based on a user setting or a predetermined configuration.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the logic for pasting the reference information comprises logic for pasting at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was pasted, the time the data was pasted, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in a document, or the title of the document from which the data was copied.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising:
logic for copying the data to the memory; and
logic for copying the data reference information related to the information based on the selections indicated by a user setting or a predetermined configuration.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the logic for copying the reference information comprises logic for copying at least one of source of the data, the date the data was copied, the time the data was copied, the identity of the user who copied the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, the last time that the data was edited, the location of the data in a document, or the title of the document from which the data was copied.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising logic for generating the reference information related to the data

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising logic for appending one or more descriptive labels to the reference information related to the data when it is pasted to the computer application.

5 40. The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the logic for appending comprises logic for appending a descriptive label related to at least one of the source of the data, the date the data was pasted, the time the data was pasted, the identity of the user who pasted the data, the author of the data, the identity of the last user who edited the data, the last date that the data was edited, or the last time that the data was edited.